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PAYING DEBTS

(Written for The Christian Science Monitor)

The basic design of human relationships is benefit. All are constantly receiving benefits, so that the process of compensating favors must be continuous with every human being. All have received of the time, the talents, the affections, of others; and with every good received, there immediately arises an equivalent demand upon the recipient which, soon or late, must be paid back into the sum of human experience. The debts and benefits of honor and gratitude are commonly recognized as belonging to the mental realm. But the human mind, because of its dualistic belief in mind and matter, differentiates between its debts, and calls those material which can be paid only with money. This admission that power inheres in matter as money, inevitably misses the end of true compensation. Superabundance presumes, on this basis, to balance gold with favors, and deficiency argues that enough money cannot be got to meet imperative needs, while the other side of the same belief leads the man with favors or commodities to trade, to assume that his greed alone shall dictate the price of his wares.

The fact that, absolutely, there is no true value but spiritual good, admits also the secondary fact that, on the relative human plane, some beliefs are better than some other beliefs. Thus the relatively good man who believes that evil circumstances have in themselves power to load him with debts he cannot pay, is not so reprehensibly under obligation as the materialist who wantonly allows or compels another to furnish him with the things that satisfy the senses. But any unpaid debt is an infraction of law, and Christian Science brings to this condition, as it does to every form of error, a true solution. It shows that all debts and all payment of debts are primarily mental. The harassed and unwilling debtor may thus learn scientifically to dispose of his burden through spiritual understanding; and the awakening of the wanton debtor is inevitably wherein he finds that he cannot escape the payment of "the uttermost farthing."

The general acknowledgment of the mutual obligations of mankind, one to another, and of the justice of paying all debts, at least hints a partial perception of divine Principle. All must pay, and the greater a man's understanding of Principle, the stronger becomes his desire to pay his debts as he goes. This desire to balance with justice is the prayer whose answer leads a man to the right ways and means which will enable him to make equal return for every benefit received. It is to this divine guidance in human affairs that Mrs. Eddy refers when she writes on page 232 of "The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany." "The right way wins the right of way, even the way of Truth and Love whereby all our debts are paid, mankind blessed, and God glorified."

Christian Science reveals the supreme fact that God, divine Mind, is the one source of all good to man, and that man's one all-inclusive debt is the obedience he owes to Principle. The perfect balance of supply and demand, favor and compensation, can be maintained only through conformity to spiritual law. When this is understood, a man sees, with Paul, that "we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh," but that a man does owe it to his best self, his sonship with God, to free consciousness, as rapidly as possible, from the belief in matter as substance or power. Proportionably as this is done, consciousness becomes more receptive to the benefits of Principle, and capable of requiting the goodness of God with gratitude and love, the only way possible to man. Then, as the human consciousness becomes more and more permeated with Truth, and so more conformable to Principle, the debts, monetary and moral, which, on the relative plane of human existence, a man owes to his fellow, he will certainly be enabled to cancel. That is to say, when the give and take of experience is rightly adjusted in consciousness according to Principle, the outward manifestation of this higher understanding will be expressed in justice and harmony.

The metaphysics of paying debts Jesus illustrated in the parable of the unmerciful servant who sought benefit for himself and refused to reflect the same benefit to another. Kindness for kindness, favor for favor, word for word, each must pay sometime, some way. A man who seeks first to adjust his thinking to divine Principle will be enabled, through this understanding, not only to cancel his own debts, but will mercifully assist others to balance theirs. He will recognize no relationship as real, that is to say, but that which exists between God and man, and man and man, as God's ideas. This is actually to practice the prayer, "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors," which Mrs. Eddy has illuminatingly interpreted in the affirmation, "And Love

is reflected in love." (Science and Health, p. 17.)

The mortal who can pay, but who dishonestly evades paying just monetary debts, can be cured only when he is first awakened to see the unreality of his evil mind. But the man who really desires and yet seems unable to meet his obligations, needs to be healed of his belief in limitation. This belief lessens and finally disappears as consciousness increasingly understands the law underlying the multiplication of the loaves and fishes in the desert place. Referring to this miracle, Mrs. Eddy writes on page 206 of Science and Health, "In the scientific relation of God to man, we find that whatever blesses one blesses all, as Jesus showed with the loaves and the fishes—Spirit, not matter, being the source of supply." The loaves and the fishes which the disciples had to begin with, were a small manifestation of their still meager sense of substance. Jesus did not address his power to the multiplication of the loaves as matter, as his "looking up to heaven" showed, but to the great need of enlarging their understanding of man's capacity to reflect the infinitely productive Mind. The limits of sense perception fell away before the Mind of the Christ, and there was revealed the perfect balance of God's law of compensation—man receiving from God and paying out again in perfect reflection. Jesus was thus able to benefit the multitude because He understood how scientifically to pay His own debt to Principle, that is, to know no other substance than Mind and its idea, and to apply that spiritual conformity to law to any human need or to any debt or tribute levied upon legitimate human relationships.

JUDGE EWING C. BLAND MAKING ACTIVE CAMPAIGN

Judge Ewing C. Bland, candidate for Judge of the Kansas City Court of Appeals, has probably made a more active campaign than any other candidate for state office. He has been into all the counties in the district, and in addition to making all of the towns on the railroads, has traveled thousands of miles by automobile and visited hundreds of inland towns.

Judge Bland is a son of the late Silver Dick Bland, the Missouri Congressman, who served in congress for twenty-six years and who narrowly missed being nominated for president in 1896, when Bryan defeated him. Judge Bland is very much like his father in personal appearance and temperament. The younger Bland made a nation-wide reputation in his judicial capacity and was tendered two unsolicited appointments by President Wilson, who thus showed the strong confidence he had in him. The president is his friend and has given him a letter of general indorsement and a vote for Bland will be a vote of confidence in the president.

Judge Bland will get a large vote in this county in the primary, Aug. 1.

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